

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claim 23 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An ~~adapter~~ assembly for testing an implantable cardiac lead comprising:
 - a housing with an interior axial opening and an outer surface, the interior axial opening configured to receive a mating terminal end of the implantable cardiac lead, the housing having a plurality of electrical contacts including outer contacts on the housing;
 - the outer contacts configured to electrically link with contacts on the mating terminal end of the implantable cardiac lead when the mating terminal end of the implantable cardiac lead is positioned within the interior opening;
 - at least one pin contact disposed within the interior axial opening, the at least one pin contact electrically couplable with a pin contact of the lead;
 - the axial opening including a mechanical retention member therein, the mechanical retention member adapted to releasably hold the housing to the terminal end;
 - a testing cable electrically couplable with the outer contacts of the housing; and
 - the outer surface configured for physical and electrical connection of the outer contacts to a testing cable in communication with a device for testing electrical aspects of the cardiac lead.
2. (Currently Amended) The ~~adapter~~ assembly of claim 1, wherein the adapter is releasably mounted to the testing cable for testing the electrical continuity of the cardiac lead.
3. (Currently Amended) The ~~adapter~~ assembly of claim 2, wherein each of the outer contacts of the adapter are connected to the testing cable by an alligator clip on the cable.
4. (Currently Amended) The ~~adapter~~ assembly of claim 1, wherein the terminal end of the implantable cardiac lead includes four contacts, the housing includes two inner contacts and two outer contacts, and insertion of the terminal end of the implantable cardiac lead within the

interior opening of the housing electrically links two of the contacts of the terminal end with the two inner contacts and the two outer contacts of the adapter.

5. (Currently Amended) The ~~adapter~~ assembly of claim 1, wherein the terminal end of the implantable cardiac lead includes two contacts, the housing includes two inner contacts and two outer contacts, and insertion of the terminal end of the implantable cardiac lead within the interior opening of the housing electrically links the two contacts of the terminal end with the two inner contacts and the two outer contacts of the adapter.

6. (Currently Amended) The ~~adapter~~ assembly of claim 1, wherein the housing includes a first end through which the terminal end of the implantable cardiac lead is inserted within the interior opening and a second end, and further includes an opening adjacent the second end to permit air to escape the axial opening as the terminal end is inserted within the axial opening.

7. (Currently Amended) The ~~adapter~~ assembly of claim 6, wherein outer surface of the housing includes a plurality of recesses with the outer contacts each positioned at a bottom of one of the recesses.

8. (Currently Amended) The ~~adapter~~ assembly of claim 7, wherein the testing cable is connected to the outer contacts in the recesses of the outer surface by spring clips.

9. (Currently Amended) The ~~adapter~~ assembly of claim 7, wherein a pair of outer contacts is electrically connected to each inner contact and each pair of outer contacts are positioned opposing each other on the outer surface of the housing within opposing recesses.

10. (Currently Amended) The ~~adapter~~ assembly of claim 6, wherein an outer housing about the interior axial opening defines a first portion, the second end includes an axial extension which is smaller in diameter than the first portion, and the outer contacts are positioned on the axial extension.

11. (Currently Amended) The ~~adapter~~ assembly of claim 10, wherein the axial extension is approximately the same diameter as the terminal end of the implanted cardiac lead.

12. (Currently Amended) The ~~adapter~~ assembly of claim 1, wherein the housing includes a first half and second half, the halves hingedly connected to one another by an axially arranged hinge adjacent the outer surface of the housing, the halves movable between an open position and a closed position, and each half includes a interior recess, the interior recesses cooperating to form the interior axial opening when the halves are in the closed position.

13. (Currently Amended) The ~~adapter~~ assembly of claim 12, wherein the outer contacts are tabs extending from the outer surface of the housing.

14. (Currently Amended) The ~~adapter~~ assembly of claim 13, wherein one or more of the inner contacts are positioned within the interior recess of the first half of the housing.

15. (Currently Amended) The ~~adapter~~ assembly of claim 14, wherein the inner contacts include first inner contacts and second inner contacts, and wherein the second inner contacts are positioned within the recess of the second half of the housing and the first inner contacts are paired with the second inner contacts ~~in the recess of the second half~~ and each of the pairs of first inner contacts and second inner contacts is electrically connected to one of the tabs of the outer contacts.

16. (Previously Presented) An assembly for testing an implanted cardiac lead comprising:
the cardiac lead including a distal end in electrical communication with a patient's heart and a proximal end including a terminal end, the terminal end including a plurality of contacts;

a testing cable adapted to communicate with an electrical continuity testing device the testing cable having a distal end including a plurality of clips, the clips linking to the terminal end of the implanted cardiac lead, and the testing cable having a proximal end;

an adapter configured to fit about the terminal end of the implanted cardiac lead and provide electrical connection between the plurality of contacts of the terminal end and the distal end of the testing cable;

the adapter positioned about the terminal end of the cardiac lead and providing an electrical connection between the testing cable and the terminal end; and

the adapter having a housing and the terminal end is received in the housing, at least one pin contact disposed within the housing, the at least one pin contact electrically couplable with a pin contact of the lead; and

the housing including outer contacts electrically couplable with the plurality of clips.

17. (Previously Presented) The assembly of claim 16, wherein the number of contacts of the terminal end of the implanted cardiac lead is greater than a number of spring clips of the testing cable.

18. (Previously Presented) An assembly for testing an implanted cardiac lead comprising:

the cardiac lead including a distal end in electrical communication with a patient's heart and a proximal end including a terminal end, the terminal end including a plurality of contacts;

a testing cable adapted to communicate with an electrical continuity testing device the testing cable having a distal end including a plurality of clips, the clips linking to the terminal end of the implanted cardiac lead, and the testing cable having a proximal end;

an adapter configured to fit about the terminal end of the implanted cardiac lead and provide electrical connection between the plurality of contacts of the terminal end and the distal end of the testing cable;

the adapter positioned about the terminal end of the cardiac lead and providing an electrical connection between the testing cable and the terminal end; and

the adapter having a housing and the terminal end is received in the housing, at least one pin contact disposed within the housing, the at least one pin contact electrically couplable with a pin contact of the lead; and

wherein the adapter includes a housing defining an axial opening with a first end through which the terminal end of the implanted cardiac lead is received and a second end with an opening adjacent the second end to permit air to escape from the axial opening when the terminal end is inserted within the axial opening, the axial opening further includes a plurality of inner contacts for electrically linking to contacts of the terminal end, and the

housing further includes an outer surface on which a plurality of outer contacts are positioned, each the inner contacts electrically connected to one of the outer contacts and the spring clips of the testing cable connected to the outer contacts.

19. (Original) The assembly of claim 18, wherein the outer contacts are positioned within recesses in the outer surface of the housing.

20. (Original) The assembly of claim 18, wherein the outer contacts include tabs extending from the outer surface of the housing.

21. (Original) The assembly of claim 18, wherein the housing includes a first portion about the axial opening and an extended portion adjacent the closed end which is smaller in diameter than the first portion, and the outer contacts are positioned on the outer surface of the housing on the extended portion.

22. (Original) The assembly of claim 18, wherein the housing of the adapter includes a pair of halves, the halves hingedly mounted to each other by a hinge and movable between an open position and a closed position, each half including a recess and the recesses cooperating to form the axial opening when in the closed position.

23. (Canceled)

24. (Currently Amended) The [[cable]] assembly of claim [[23]] 18, wherein the housing includes a first half and second half, the halves hingedly connected to one another by an axially arranged hinge adjacent the outer surface of the housing, the halves movable between an open position and a closed position, and each half includes a interior recess, the interior recesses cooperating to form the interior axial opening when the halves are in the closed position.

25. (Original) A method of connecting an implanted cardiac lead to a testing device comprising:
providing the implanted cardiac lead with a distal end positioned within a body of a patient and including a terminal end including a plurality of contacts;

providing a testing cable with a proximal end adapted for connection with the testing device and a distal end including a plurality of spring clips;

providing an adapter including a housing defining an axial opening with a first end and a closed second end, a plurality of inner contacts within the opening and a plurality of outer contacts electrically connected with the inner contacts on an outer surface of the housing;

placing the terminal end of the cardiac lead within the axial opening of the adapter so that contacts of the terminal end are electrically linked with the inner contacts; and,

connecting the spring clips of the distal end of the testing cable with the outer contacts of the adapter, so that the contacts of the terminal end are electrically connected to the spring clips of the testing cable.

26. (Canceled)